

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05000 01 OF 02 141442Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 HA-05 /102 W
-----102146 141533Z /53

R 141430Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5463
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USINT HAVANA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05000

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05000 01 OF 02 141442Z

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, AO, CU, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIUM TO ACCREDIT CHARGE IN LUANDA AS
AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA

REF: BRUSSELS 1201

1. SUMMARY: ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN AGREEMENT FOR NAMING BELGIUM'S CHARGE IN LUANDA AS AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA. U.K. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES STATUS OF U.K.-ANGOLA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND MERCENARIES WITH ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

2. DURING MARCH 9 DISCUSSION ON ANGOLA WITH BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AFRICAN AFFAIRS OFFICER (VAN OVERBERGHE) WE WERE TOLD THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN AGREEMENT FOR JEAN LECOMTE, CURRENT BELGIAN CHARGE IN LUANDA, AS BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT LECOMTE'S CREDENTIALS SHOULD BE SIGNED BY THE KING WITHIN THE WEEK AND BE ON THE THEIR WAY TO LECOMTE, WHO HAS BEEN CHARGE IN LUANDA SINCE LAST SUMMER. WE ASKED VAN OVERBERGHE WHAT HAD BECOME OF FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET'S ASSURANCES TO ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR DE ALMEIDA ON JANUARY 13 (REFTEL PARA 5) THAT BELGIUM WOULD NAME A NEW FULL AMBASSADOR TO REPLACE THE CHARGE IN LUANDA. VAN OVERBERGHE REPLIED THAT BELGIUM HAS A SMALL FOREIGN SERVICE AND THAT THERE WERE VERY FEW QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILLING TO GO TO LUANDA. AS A RESULT, BELGIANS HAD TO GO BACK AND ASK THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT LECOMTE.

3. U.K. POLITICAL OFFICER (CHAPLIN) HAS TOLD US THAT U.K.-ANGOLAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION WAS DISCUSSED IN EARLY FEBRUARY CALL BY ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR DE ALMEIDA ON U.K. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05000 01 OF 02 141442Z

AMBASSADOR MUIRHEAD. ACCORDING TO CHAPLIN, MUIRHEAD ASKED WHETHER DE ALMEIDA, IN HIS CAPACITY AS AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM, THE EEC "AND OTHER NEIGHBORING EUROPEAN COUNTRIES" WOULD ALSO BE ACCREDITED TO LONDON. DE ALMEIDA REPLIED THAT THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAD THE MATTER "UNDER CONSIDERATION" BUT THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS TO DO SO AT PRESENT. MUIRHEAD TOLD THE ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR THAT THE U.K. PLANNED TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF ITS MISSION IN LUANDA TO AN EMBASSY AND HAVE AN AMBASSADOR IN PLACE "WITHIN SIX MONTHS." CHAPLIN NOTED THAT THE U.K. CHARGE ARRIVED IN LUANDA AND TOOK UP HIS POST IN LUANDA IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR.

4. CHAPLIN ALSO TOLD US THAT DE ALMEIDA CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MUIRHEAD UNDER INSTRUCTIONS AT A LATER DATE IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND, PRODUCING BRITISH PRESS CLIPPING, COMPLAINED ABOUT REPORTED RECRUITMENT IN THE U.K. OF MERCENARIES TO FIGHT FOR THE FNLA AGAINST THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. CHAPLIN SAID MUIRHEAD TOLD THE ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR THAT WHILE BRITISH LAW PUNISHED "RECRUITING" OF MERCENARIES, NOTHING COULD BE DONE UNDER PRESENT LEGISLATION TO PREVENT CITIZENS FROM VOLUNTARILY LEAVING THE COUNTRY TO TAKE PART IN FOREIGN MILITARY ACTIVITIES. MUIRHEAD TOLD DE ALMEIDA

THAT U.K. PARLIAMENT IS CURRENTLY EXAMINING THE DIPLOCK
REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES OF PRESENT LEGISLATION
AND ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO ISSUE PUBLIC
WARNINGS THAT HMG WOULD BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION
AND ASSISTANCE TO U.K. CITIZENS CAUGHT INVOLVED
IN MERCENARY ACTIVITIES. CHAPLIN TOLD US THAT
DE ALMEIDA REPLIED THAT U.K. MERCENARIES CAUGHT IN ANGOLA
WOULD BE "SHOT WITHOUT A TRIAL." HE SAID THAT WORD OF
DE ALMEIDA'S RETORT GOT INTO THE BRITISH PRESS AND HAD
CAUSED A STIR. LATER ON, DE ALMEIDA PASSED ON TO MUIRHEAD
A LETTER HE RECEIVED IN THE OPEN MAIL FROM AN IRATE U.K.
CITIZEN WHO THREATENED BODILY HARM TO DE ALMEIDA IF ANY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05000 02 OF 02 141443Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 HA-05 /102 W

-----102157 141532Z /53

R 141430Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5464

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT HAVANA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05000

BRITISH SUBJECTS WERE SUMMARILY EXECUTED IN ANGOLA.

CHAMBERS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05000 02 OF 02 141443Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE05000
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780113-0440
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780373/aaaacjnl.tel
Line Count: 182
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f6f7f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 1201
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3345767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIUM TO ACCREDIT CHARGE IN LUANDA AS AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA
TAGS: PINT, AO, CU, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f6f7f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014